

For Immediate Release:

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Contact:

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

**Statement by Representative Denise Grimsley
Regarding the House Budget Allocations**

Tallahassee, Fla. – House Appropriations Chairman Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring) today released the following statement concerning the fiscal year 2012-2013 budget allocations released today to the House Appropriations Subcommittees.

“The allocations released today reflect the difficult balance between our desire to fund many worthy and essential state functions, our constitutional responsibility to pass a balanced budget in the face of a more than \$1 billion shortfall, and our commitment to get there on time and without raising taxes.”

“Governor Scott’s budget recommendations, particularly in the area of K-12 education, were one of many tools utilized to finalize these allocations. Our shared commitment to ensuring that Florida’s students have the resources necessary to compete in the global economy is reflected in the K-12 allocation which includes over a \$1 billion in new state funds.

“Taking into account some concerns expressed surrounding the recent revenue estimate, we also incorporated mechanisms that will provide for automatic contingencies in the event of future revenue losses or increases. With these triggers in place and one of the most steady revenue estimates in recent years as our guide, we can account for any potential fluctuation without accessing the \$1 billion set aside in reserves.

“Over the next few days, the Appropriations subcommittees will utilize these allocations to finalize the budget recommendations they have been crafting for the last several months. The Appropriations subcommittees will present their proposed budget recommendations next week in committee and the full House proposed budget will be heard in the Appropriations Committee the week following.

“There are many difficult decisions ahead, but those decisions should not be delayed with the hope that additional revenue will make tough choices easier. Florida’s families don’t have the luxury of delaying challenging financial choices and neither should government.”

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